

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 15 are now pending in this application. The Office Action has stated that a restriction is required.

Applicant amended the claims and specification to correct the antecedent basis of the claims, to remove the various informalities contained therein, and also to correct various typographical errors contained therein. Applicant now believes that the pending claims and specification conforms with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. No new matter has been added.

A requirement of restriction has been made with respect to claims 1 through 11. Claims 12 through 15 have been newly added. The Action states that the application has claims directed to a patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Species A is the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 through 8. Species B is the embodiment shown in Figs. 9 and 10. The Action requires that the applicant elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Species A, namely Figures 1 through 8.

However, Figures 9, and 10 should not be subject to the restriction and should be examined with Figs. 1 through 8. Applicant states that claims to be restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. Claims to be restricted to different species must recite the mutually exclusive characteristic of such species. Figs. 9 and 10 should be included and examined with Figs.

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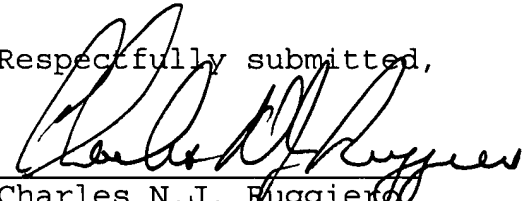
1 through 8 because these embodiments are not mutually exclusive relative to Figs. 1 through 8. In fact, the claims that are directed to Figs. 9, and 10, namely claims 8, 10, and 11 depend from claim 1 that reads on Figs. 1 through 8.

Nonetheless in order to comply with the Action, applicant hereby elects, with traverse, species A, namely Figs. 1 through 8. The following claims read on species A, claims 1 through 7, 9 and claims 12 through 15. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims, namely claims 8, 10, and 11 in the future as a possible continuation application.

Allowance of claims 1 through 7, 9, and 12 through 15 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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